



U.S. Department of the Interior Your Recovery Dollars at Work

RECOVERY.GOV



Ashland Resource Area

Medford District, Oregon

Recovery Act Program Bureau of Land Management

Sterling Mine Ditch Trail System

The Sterling Mine Ditch Trail System is a 18.2 mile hiking and equestrian trail system that for the majority of its length follows the Sterling Mine Ditch.

Putting America to Work

This project involves trail restoration and improvements along the entire length of the system. Repairs and improvements include tread restoration; brushing intruding vegetation; new signage; repairing historic structures (rock retaining walls); and improving water management structures.

Investment in the American workforce is being made through providing work experience and economic invigoration for young Americans. Youth corps crews are being utilized to restore and improve the entire length of the trail.

History

The trail bed you are walking on today is the result of the construction of the historic Sterling Mine Ditch. As part of the Sterling Mining Company's gold mining operations, the ditch was constructed to bring water from the Little Applegate River to aide in separating gold from soil and rock. Construction of the three foot deep—twenty-six mile ditch was backbreaking work and employed more than 400 workers, many of them Chinese. Built in 1877, construction of the ditch took less than a year and was eventually abandoned in the 1930's during the Great Depression.

Thank you for visiting your public lands.

Please protect and enjoy the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail System.

